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URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL OF CHESHUNT



ANNUAL REPORT

of the

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

including the Report of the

SANITARY INSPECTOR

for the year

1951

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Urban District Council of Cheshunt

PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE 1951-52 :—

Councillor M. W. HAYTER (*Chairman*)
Councillor R. H. BEAL
Councillor D. E. BREEZE
Councillor W. C. CLARK
Councillor W. DRYDEN
Councillor W. MITCHELL
Councillor G. B. WEST

PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT—Staff :—

Medical Officer of Health (Part time) :—
CHARLES R. HILLIS, M.B., B.CH.

Deputy Medical Officer of Health (Part time) :—
JOHN A. CURRIE, M.B., B.S.

Senior Sanitary Inspector, Inspector under the Petroleum Act :—
C. WILSON, M.R. SAN.I., M.S.I.A. (1.3.4.)

Additional Sanitary Inspector :—
S. C. BAKER, A.R.SAN.I., M.S.I.A. (2.3.)

General :

MISS T. PAVELY, *Clerk/Typist*
MISS P. WARNER, *Clerk* (Resigned August)
MR. E. J. DAY, *Clerk* (Returned from H.M.F. July)
MR. G. WARNER, *Mortuary Attendant* (Part Time)
MR. T. P. CRESSWELL, *Rodent Operative*

Key to qualifications of Sanitary Inspectors—

1. Sanitary Inspector's Certificate, Royal Sanitary Institute.
2. Certificate of the Royal Sanitary Institute and Sanitary Inspectors Examination Joint Board for Sanitary Inspectors.
3. Meat and Food Inspector's Certificate, Royal Sanitary Institute.
4. Certificate in Sanitary Science as applied to Buildings and Public Works, Royal Sanitary Institute.

PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT,
MANOR HOUSE,
CHESHUNT.

July, 1952.

*To the Chairman and Members of the
Urban District Council of Cheshunt.*

I have the honour to present my sixth annual report, together with that of the Sanitary Inspector, upon the health and sanitary circumstances of the district during the year 1951.

Vital statistics for the year again show cause for satisfaction in that the birth rate is higher and the death rate lower than the corresponding figures for the country as a whole.

The Infant Mortality rate at 27.85 per 1,000 live births is higher than last year but it compares favourably with the figures for England and Wales at 29.6.

The notification rates of scarlet fever and measles were high, but it is pleasing to note again that there were no cases of diphtheria during the year. If parents leave their children unprotected by immunisation however, there may be a return of diphtherial outbreaks. It is estimated that the number of children under one year old immunised during 1951 was only 28% and it is vital to secure that not less than 75% of babies are immunised before their first birthday. Free immunisation may be obtained by consulting the family doctor or through the Infant Welfare Centres.

It is also pleasing to report that there were no cases of food poisoning during the year. There is a growing appreciation of the principles of food hygiene both among food handlers and the general public but it cannot be too frequently stated that food poisoning is largely preventable. The basic rules are the same wherever food is prepared, stored or exposed for sale—it should be handled as little as possible and all those engaged should observe cleanliness in themselves, cleanliness in their place of work and cleanliness in their utensils.

I wish to record my thanks to the Sanitary Inspector and to all members of the staff for their co-operation through the year and to the Chairman and members of the Public Health Committee for their interest in the various aspects of the work of the department.

C. R. HILLIS,

Medical Officer of Health.

SECTION I

STATISTICS

Area : The area of Cheshunt is 8,480 acres.

Population : Registrar-General's Estimate—

1940	18,190	1944	18,700	1948	21,210
1941	18,310	1945	18,700	1949	21,490
1942	18,610	1946	20,230	1950	22,180
1943	18,590	1947	21,080	1951	23,290

				1950	1951
				—	—
Number of inhabited houses on the rate books				6119	6685
Rateable Value	...	...	...	£135,566	£150,155
Sum represented by penny rate		...	...	£550	£600

Vital Statistics :

	Birth Rate per 1,000 Population			Death Rate per 1,000 Population		
	Cheshunt Number	England & Rate Wales		Cheshunt Number	England & Rate Wales	
1940	286	15.72	14.6	221	12.63	14.3
1941	301	16.43	14.2	230	12.56	12.9
1942	335	18.0	15.8	194	10.42	11.6
1943	380	20.44	16.5	204	10.97	12.1
1944	373	19.95	17.6	209	11.18	11.6
1945	333	17.8	16.1	202	10.8	11.4
1946	432	21.35	19.1	188	9.29	11.5
1947	494	23.43	20.5	226	10.7	12.0
1948	418	19.71	17.9	209	9.85	10.8
1949	381	17.73	16.7	213	9.91	11.7
1950	354	15.96	15.8	221	9.96	11.6
1951	395	16.96	15.5	222	9.53	12.5

	1950	1951
Still birth rate per 1,000 total births (live and still)	8.4	24.69
Deaths from puerperal causes :—		
Deaths from puerperal and post abortive sepsis	nil	nil
Deaths from other maternal causes ...	3	nil
Death rate per 1,000 total births (live and still)	8.4	nil

Deaths rates of infants under 1 year of age :—

All Infants per 1,000 Live Births :—

	1940	1941	1942	1943	1944	1945
Cheshunt ...	34.84	36.54	35.82	34.21	35.00	36.03
England & Wales	55	59	49	49	46	46
	1946	1947	1948	1949	1950	1951
Cheshunt ...	34.72	22.27	14.35	44.62	22.59	27.85
England & Wales	43	41	34	32	29.8	29.6

Birth-Rates, Civilian Death Rates, Analysis of Mortality, Maternal Mortality and Case Rates of certain Infectious Diseases in the year 1951.

(Provisional figures based on Quarterly Returns)

	England and Wales	126 County Boroughs and Great Towns including London	148 Smaller Towns (Resident Populations 25,000 to 50,000 at 1931 Census)	London Adm. County	Cheshunt
Rates per 1,000 home population :—					
Births :—					
Live Births ...	15.5	17.3	16.7	17.8	16.96
Still Births ...	0.36	0.45	0.38	0.37	0.43
Deaths :—					
All Causes ...	12.5	13.4	12.5	13.1	9.53
Typhoid and Paratyphoid ...	0.00	0.00	0.00	—	—
Whooping Cough ...	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.01	—
Diphtheria ...	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	—
Tuberculosis ...	0.31	0.37	0.31	0.38	0.13
Influenza ...	0.38	0.36	0.38	0.23	0.09
Smallpox ...	0.00	0.00	0.00	—	—
Acute Poliomyelitis (including Poliomyelitis)	0.00	0.01	0.01	0.00	—
Pneumonia ...	0.61	0.65	0.63	0.61	0.43

Notifications (Corrected) :—

Typhoid Fever	...	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.01	—
Paratyphoid Fever	...	0.02	0.03	0.02	0.01	—
Meningococcal Infection		0.03	0.04	0.03	0.03	—
Scarlet Fever	...	1.11	1.20	1.20	1.10	3.78
Whooping Cough	...	3.87	3.62	4.00	3.11	3.05
Diphtheria	...	0.02	0.02	0.03	0.01	—
Erysipelas	...	0.14	0.15	0.12	0.15	0.26
Smallpox	...	0.00	0.00	0.00	—	—
Measles	...	14.07	13.93	14.82	14.64	24.90
Pneumonia	...	0.99	1.04	0.96	0.72	1.50
Acute Poliomyelitis (including Polio- encephalitis)						
Paralytic	...	0.03	0.03	0.03	0.02	} .043
Non-Paralytic	...	0.02	0.02	0.03	0.02	
Food Poisoning	...	0.13	0.15	0.08	0.23	—

Rates per 1,000 Live Births :—

Deaths :—

All causes under 1 year of age	...	29.6	33.9	27.6	26.4	27.85
Diarrhoea and Enter- itis under 2 years of age	...	1.4	1.6	1.0	0.7	—

Rates per 1,000 Total Births (Live and Still) :—

Notifications (Corrected) :—

Puerperal Fever and Pyrexia	...	10.66	13.77	8.08	14.90	.043
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Causes of Death.

				Male	Female
ALL CAUSES	105	117
Tuberculosis of respiratory system	...			1	2
Other Tuberculosis	...	...		—	—
Syphilitic diseases	...	...	...	—	—
Other infective and parasitic diseases				—	2
Cancer	...	...	...	19	22
Diabetes	...	...	...	2	—
Vascular lesions of nervous system	...			11	16
Coronary disease, angina	...		..	15	14
Hypertension with heart disease			...	4	6
Other heart disease	...	...	...	11	21
Other circulatory diseases	...		...	7	5
Influenza	...	...	...	—	2
Bronchitis	...	...	...	8	12
Pneumonia	...	...	...	5	5
Other respiratory diseases	...		...	1	—
Ulcer of stomach	...	...	...	3	—
Nephritis and nephrosis	...		...	—	—
Hyperplasia of prostate	...		...	—	—
Other defined and ill defined diseases				12	6
Congenital debility, premature birth, etc.				2	3
Motor vehicle accidents	...		...	1	—
All other accidents		...	...	1	—
Suicide	...	...	...	2	1

SECTION 2

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES

Regional Hospital Board Services.

Physiotherapy Clinic	Welfare Centre, High Street, Waltham Cross, 9 a.m. to 4.30 p.m. daily, except Saturday and Sunday.
Chest Clinic	Honey Lane Hospital, Waltham Abbey, Mondays 2 p.m. (A.P. refills, 10.45 a.m.)
Ophthalmic Clinic	Welfare Centre, High Street, Waltham Cross, Fridays, 9.30 to 11.30 a.m.

County Council Health Services.

Ambulance	Fire Station, Cheshunt. Establishment on 31st December, 1951 :— 2 shift leaders 6 men 1 ambulance 1 sitting case car															
Day Nursery	The Chestnuts, Waltham Cross 40 places for children 0 to 5 years. Waiting List on 31st December, 1951—14.															
Home Help Service	Organizer : Mrs. M. Ellis, Welfare Centre, High Street, Waltham Cross. Hours : Monday to Friday, 10 to 11 a.m. Establishment of Home Helps at 28th December, 1951 :— <table><tr><td>whole-time</td><td>...</td><td>...</td><td>...</td><td>6</td></tr><tr><td>half-time</td><td>...</td><td>...</td><td>...</td><td>21</td></tr><tr><td colspan="4">casual (i.e. employed on hourly basis)</td><td>10</td></tr></table> Cases assisted during 1951—225.	whole-time	6	half-time	21	casual (i.e. employed on hourly basis)				10
whole-time	6												
half-time	21												
casual (i.e. employed on hourly basis)				10												
Welfare Centres	Labour Hall, College Road, Cheshunt. Thursday, 2 to 4 p.m. Doctor attends. Nockold Hall, Goff's Lane, Goffs Oak. 1st and 3rd Wednesdays in the month 2.30 to 4.30 p.m. Rear of Greenfield House, High Street, Waltham Cross :— <table><tr><td>Minor Ailments Clinic, Monday to Friday 9 to 10 a.m.</td></tr></table>	Minor Ailments Clinic, Monday to Friday 9 to 10 a.m.														
Minor Ailments Clinic, Monday to Friday 9 to 10 a.m.																

Dental Clinic—by appointment only.
 Speech Therapy Clinic, Fridays, 9 a.m.
 to 12.15 p.m. and 1.30 to 4 p.m.
 Ante-Natal Clinic: Tuesdays, 9 a.m. to
 12 noon. Midwives only. Monday,
 9 a.m. to 12 noon, Doctors attend.
 Infant Welfare Centre, Wednesdays,
 1.45 to 4 p.m.

Health Visitors and School Nurses	Miss Churchill, Welfare Centre, High Street, Waltham Cross. Tel: Waltham Cross 3401. Miss J. P. Baker, Welfare Centre, High Street, Waltham Cross. Miss J. P. Young, Flat 4, Goff's Oak Villa, Goff's Lane, Cheshunt. (Cuffley 2420).
District Nurses and Midwives	Miss Hitchon and Miss Skidmore, Greenfield Cottage, 178, High Street, Waltham Cross. (Waltham Cross 3127) Miss Smith, 24, Cromwell Avenue, Cheshunt. (Waltham Cross 3580) Miss M. G. Brown, Flat 4, Goff's Lane, Cheshunt. (Cuffley 2420) Miss E. L. Day, Park Cottage, Flamstead End. (Waltham Cross 3410) Wormley, part-time nurse vacancy.

OTHER SERVICES.

Blood Transfusion.

The Cheshunt Recruitment Committee of the National Blood Transfusion Service arranged blood donation sessions at the Welfare Centre, Waltham Cross.

Dates of future sessions and further information may be obtained from Miss Munns, the Secretary of the Recruitment Committee at Speedwell, Blindmans Lane, Cheshunt. Telephone No. Waltham Cross 3026.

Miss Munns has kindly supplied the following details regarding the service during the year:—

“We have had six sessions during the year, and over 500 donations have been given. Donors increased to 93 on the last occasion and we hope to

make a "century" next time. We welcome new donors, and need them to make up for losses through removals, domestic affairs or age limits. Each donor is tested at all sessions, and no one is allowed to donate if below par in any way. Certain donors, who are in rare blood groups, have been called to London hospitals to give emergency life saving transfusions."

Laboratory Facilities.

A hospital laboratory service is available at Chase Farm Hospital and at the Public Health Laboratory at the Hertford County Hospital, and specimens and patients may be referred to the laboratories.

National Assistance Act, 1948.

During the year no action was taken by the Council under Section 47 of the Act, for the removal to suitable premises of persons in need of care and attention.

British Red Cross Society.

Miss E. Munns, Vice President, B.R.C.S. (Herts) has again kindly supplied me with details of the work of the local Committee. A limited number of over-seas food parcels are delivered monthly to civilian patients and invalid food is distributed to T.B. ex-patients. The B.R.C.S. occupational therapy service provides materials and instruction to bedridden patients on the recommendation of local doctors.

Mortuary.

The mortuary is situated in a building at Cheshunt Cemetery, Bury Green Road. During the year five bodies were received in the mortuary.

SECTION 3

PREVALENCE AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES

Notifiable Diseases.

The following table shows details of diseases notified during 1950 and 1951 :—

		1950	————	1951	————
		Cases Notified	Cases Notified	Cases admitted to Hospital	Deaths
Scarlet Fever	...	19	88	11	—
Measles	...	22	580	2	—
Whooping Cough	...	130	71	5	—
Pneumonia	...	38	35	—	10
Erysipelas	...	6	6	—	—
Puerperal Pyrexia	...	1	1	—	—
Acute Poliomyelitis	...	1	—	—	—
Acute Encephalitis	...	—	1	—	1
Dysentery	...	4	8	1	—
Food Poisoning	...	19	—	—	—
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	—	—	1	—	—
Tuberculosis	...	19	9	—	3

Scarlet Fever.

The incidence of Scarlet Fever in 1951 showed an appreciable increase over the previous year with 88 cases compared to 19 in 1950. The cases occurred as follows.

Quarter ending 31st March.	16
„ „ 30th June.	26
„ „ 30th September.	10
„ „ 31st December.	36

A high proportion of the cases occurred amongst children attending Burleigh School or in households in

which a child other than the patient attended Burleigh School, and in May the assistance of the County Medical Officer of Health was sought through the School Medical Service to make an investigation at the school with a view to excluding possible carriers.

Practically all the cases were of a very mild type.

Measles.

The incidence of measles during the last ten years is shown in the following table. It followed the pattern of previous years in that a minor epidemic has occurred on alternate years.

Year	Cases notified	Notifications per 1000 population
1951	580	24.90
1950	22	0.99
1949	450	20.94
1948	128	6.04
1947	324	15.37
1946	59	2.91
1945	351	18.7
1944	14	0.75
1943	420	22.59
1942	38	2.04
1941	508	27.74

Whooping Cough.

The comparative incidence of whooping cough during the last ten years is shown in the following table.

Year	Cases notified	Notifications per 1000 population
1951	71	3.05
1950	130	5.86
1949	48	2.23
1948	108	5.09
1947	147	6.97
1946	53	2.61

Year	Cases notified	Notifications per 1000 population
1945	26	1.39
1944	172	9.19
1943	19	1.02
1942	116	6.23
1941	155	8.41

Poliomyelitis and Encephalitis.

There were no cases of Poliomyelitis reported during the year.

One case of acute Encephalitis occurred in a male patient who was 63 years of age. He was removed to hospital on 27th September, 1951, and died there on 6th October, 1951.

Dysentery.

Eight cases of Dysentery occurred and seven of these were notified in the quarter ending 31st March. Investigations were carried out but no common source of infection was discovered. The cases were all of a mild type.

Tuberculosis.

New Cases 1951—Classified by age groups.

Age Period	Respiratory		Non-respiratory		Totals
	M.	F.	M.	F.	
0— 5	—	—	—	—	—
5—15	—	—	—	—	—
15—25	2	—	1	—	3
25—35	2	—	—	—	2
35—45	2	—	—	—	2
45—55	—	—	—	—	—
55—65	—	1	—	—	1
65 upwards	1	—	—	—	1
	7	1	1	—	9

Number of cases from other areas transferred to Cheshunt, 1951	14
---	-----	-----	-----	----

Number of cases from other areas transferred to Cheshunt 1950	10
--	-----	-----	-----	----

There were three deaths attributed to Tuberculosis in Cheshunt during 1951, giving a death rate per 1000 of the population of 0.13 compared with the rate for England and Wales of 0.31. Comparisons of rates based on such small numbers are however likely to be misleading.

No action was taken under the Public Health (Prevention of Tuberculosis) Regulations, 1925 or under Section 172 of the Public Health Act, 1936, which relate respectively to infectious persons suffering from tuberculosis and engaged in the handling of milk and to the removal to hospital of infectious persons suffering from tuberculosis.

Disinfection.

Terminal disinfection of rooms and bedding is systematically carried out after open cases of tuberculosis and in some cases after scarlet fever. Generally after scarlet fever, occupiers are advised thoroughly to cleanse and ventilate the room and to wash with soap and water all articles of contact.

Special disinfection is done for cases of enteric or para-typhoid fevers, dysentery and poliomyelitis.

SECTION 4

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES and SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE AREA

Report of the Sanitary Inspector

Sanitary Inspection of the Area.

The inspections made by the Sanitary Inspectors during the year numbered 2,225 and details as to the nature of these inspections are given in the tables which follow. 447 complaints relating to a variety of matters were received.

SUMMARY.

Number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under the Public Health and Housing Acts)	...	...	...	...	...	...	165
Number of dwelling-houses inspected for other than housing defects	...	...	...	...	...	...	271
Number of premises other than houses inspected							832
Premises re-inspected	...	...	...	...	...	...	397
Visits to works in progress	...	...	...	...	...	...	103
Miscellaneous Visits	...	...	...	...	...	...	457
							2225

Included in the above table are the following classified visits :—

Visits to schools	...	...	...	...	...	...	28
„ „ places of public entertainment	...	...	...	...	...	...	30
„ „ swimming bath	...	...	...	...	...	...	10
„ „ movable dwellings	...	...	...	...	...	...	115
„ „ stables and piggeries	...	...	...	...	...	...	22
„ re overcrowding	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
„ Petroleum Acts	...	...	...	...	...	...	48

Visits to Shops Acts	13
„ collection and disposal of refuse and salvage	208
„ verminous premises for disinfestation ...	5
„ infectious diseases	121
„ disinfections	15
„ drain tests	45
„ rats and mice	74

Details of inspections of food premises and factories are given in the appropriate sections of the report.

Inspection of Dwelling Houses.

Total number of dwelling houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health & Housing Acts)	165
---	-----

Number of dwelling houses (included above) which were inspected or recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations 1925 and 1932 ...	Nil
--	-----

Remedy of Defects during the year without Service of Formal Notices :—

Number of defective dwelling houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their Officers	67
--	----

Action under Statutory Powers during the year :—

(a) Proceedings under the Public Health Acts :

- (1) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied 3
- (2) Number of dwelling houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notice :

(a) by Owners	...	...	...	...	...	*6
(b) by Local Authority in default of Owners						Nil
(b) Proceedings under the Housing Act, 1936 :						
(1) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which notices were served under section 9 requiring defects to be remedied	...	...				Nil
(2) Number of dwelling houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notice :						
(a) by Owners	...	...	...	...	...	*1
(b) by Local Authority in default of Owners						Nil
(* Includes notices served 1950).						

Inspection of Factories.

1. INSPECTIONS FOR PURPOSES OF PROVISIONS AS TO HEALTH.

Premises.	Number on Register.	Number of Inspections.	Number of written Notices.	Number of Occupiers Prosecuted.
(i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	7	5	—	—
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by Local Authority	63	46	—	—
(iii) Other Premises under the Act (excluding out-workers premises)	—	—	—	—
Total	70	51	—	—

There are no factories in this area submitting lists of out-workers under Section 110 of the Act. Notifications were received of thirty nine places of employment of out-workers in this district which had been included in lists submitted to other Councils. Twenty five inspections were made out of out-workers premises and they were found to be satisfactory.

Housing Statistics.

Number of houses erected since 1945 :—

By the Urban District Council of Cheshunt

Permanent traditional, including flats	474
Permanent prefabricated	18
Temporary prefabricated	135
By the Edmonton Borough Council	200
By the Tottenham Borough Council	110
By Private Enterprise	217
	<hr/>
	1154

Number of houses erected during 1951 :—

By the Urban District Council of Cheshunt

Permanent traditional	30
By the Edmonton Borough Council	72
By the Tottenham Borough Council	100
By Private Enterprise	24
	<hr/>
	226

Housing Act, 1949—Improvement Grants.

During the year applications for Improvement Grants under Section 20, Housing Act, 1949, were received in respect of four dwelling houses. None of the applications were granted since the premises did not conform with the specified requirements with regard to their construction and physical condition.

Service of Notices.

Statutory Notices under Section 93, Public Health Act, 1936, to abate nuisance	3
Statutory Notices under Section 75, Public Health Act, 1936, to provide a covered dust-bin	9
Statutory Notices under Section 277, Public Health Act, 1936, requiring information as to ownership of premises	61

Statutory Notices under Section 39, Public Health Act, 1936, requiring execution of Works of drainage, etc., in existing building	1
Statutory Notices under Section 89 of the Public Health Act, 1936, requiring the provision of sanitary conveniences	1
Statutory Notices under Section 24 of the Public Health Act, 1936, regarding proposed work of maintenance on sewer	13
Statutory Notices under Milk and Dairies Regulations, 1949, restricting the sale of milk ...	1

SUMMARY.

Statutory notices requiring defects in dwelling houses to be remedied :

Served 1951 3	Complied with 1951 ... 7
Outstanding 31st Dec., 1950 3	Outstanding 31st Dec., 1951 —
Unexpired 31st Dec., 1950 3	Unexpired 31st Dec., 1951 2
<hr/> 9 <hr/>	<hr/> 9 <hr/>

Statutory notices requiring provision of Dustbins :

Served 1951 9	Complied with by :
Outstanding 31st Dec., 1950 —	Owner 9
Unexpired 31st Dec., 1950 3	Occupier 1
	Local Authority in default —
	Unexpired 31st Dec., 1951 2
<hr/> 12 <hr/>	<hr/> 12 <hr/>

Intimation Notices :

Outstanding 31st December, 1950	...	...	32
Outstanding 31st December, 1951	...	...	39
Served during 1951	...	...	126

Legal Proceedings.

Proceedings were instituted against the owner under Section 290 of the Public Health Act, 1936, for failure to comply with a notice under Section 39 requiring execution of works of drainage at 10, Blindmans Lane. On 23rd May, 1951, the owner was fined £2 and the Magistrates decided that a continuing penalty of 5/- a day would be imposed for each day during which the default continued.

Since the work necessary to comply with the notice was completed without further delay, action to recover the continuing penalties was not taken.

Provision of Dustbins—Appeal.

An appeal by the owner against the Council's requirement under Section 75 of the Public Health Act, 1936, to provide a sufficient dustbin at 38, Prospect Road, was heard by the Cheshunt Bench on 31st January, 1951. The Appeal was allowed and the Council was ordered to pay one guinea towards the Appellant's costs.

Water.

The whole of the district is within the area of supply of the Metropolitan Water Board and the supply has been satisfactory in quantity and quality.

All dwelling houses in the district are supplied from public mains direct to the houses with the exception of approximately twelve out-lying cottages and farms where the water is obtained from private sources.

Details of the reports on all samples of water taken during the year are shown in the table which follows.

The water supply at New River Cottage, Canada Nursery, is obtained by pumping from the New River and is treated by passing through a sand filter. This filter has not been satisfactory for some time and following the unsatisfactory report on sample No. 1 a Metafilt filter was installed.

The water supply which serves the Camping Ground and the new Secondary Modern School at Theobalds Park is pumped from a deep bore well to storage tanks. Sixteen samples of which four were unsatisfactory were taken from this source during the year. A new chlorination plant for the treatment of water was installed in June and three samples taken after the plant was brought into use were reported upon as unsatisfactory. Enquiries were made as to the probable cause of these failures and it appeared likely that they were due to inexperience in the operation of the new chlorination plant.

Two samples of water from the private well serving Temple House, Theobalds Park, were reported upon as unsatisfactory (Samples Nos. 6 & 7). The occupier, who was warned that all water from this source should be boiled before use for drinking purposes, was at the end of the year negotiating for a supply of mains water.

The supply at Malaya Farm (Sample No. 17) is from a deep bore pumped to a storage tank and it serves the three properties, Malaya Farm, Malaya Farm Bungalow and the Cottage, Crouch Lane. The occupiers have been warned that water from this source must be boiled before being used for drinking purposes.

Report on Water Samples.

No.	Date.	Address	Plate Count 3 days 22°C	Too many to count	Coli per 100 ml.	Approx. Faecal Coli	Pro'tions Non-faecal Coli	Remarks
1	3/1/51	New River Cottage, Canada Nursery, Great Cambridge Road—Pump	Too many to count	Too many to count	50	100	—	Unsatisfactory
2	30/5/51	Camping Ground, Theobalds Park, Standpipe	13	7	—	—	—	Satisfactory
3	11/6/51	Camping Ground, Theobalds Park, Standpipe	Too many to count	Too many to count	8	—	100	Unsatisfactory
4	2/7/51	Camping Ground, Theobalds Park, Hydrant	30	4	—	—	—	Satisfactory
5	9/7/51	Camping Ground, Theobalds Park, Standpipe	Too many to count	Too many to count	—	—	—	Unsatisfactory
6	9/7/51	Temple House, Theobalds Park, Stor- age tank in roof	Too many to count	Too many to count	13	—	100	Unsatisfactory
7	23/7/51	Temple House, Theobalds Park, Deep well	17	8	1	—	100	Unsatisfactory
8	23/7/51	Camping Ground, Theobalds Park, Standpipe	1	3	—	—	—	Satisfactory
9	30/7/51	Camping Ground, Theobalds Park, Standpipe	7	5	—	—	—	Satisfactory

10	8/8/51	Camping Ground, Theobalds Park, Standpipe	2	—	—	—	Satisfactory
11	20/8/51	Camping Ground, Theobalds Park, Standpipe	40	20	—	—	Satisfactory
12	17/9/51	Camping Ground, Theobalds Park, Too many Standpipe to count	100	5	—	100	Unsatisfactory
13	25/9/51	Theobalds Secondary School. Tap in Vegetable Preparation Room	150	50	8	—	100 Unsatisfactory
14	9/10/51	Theobalds Secondary School, Tap in Vegetable Preparation Room	50	20	—	—	Satisfactory
15	16/10/51	Theobalds Secondary School, Tap in Vegetable Preparation Room	2	—	—	—	Satisfactory
16	23/10/51	Theobalds Secondary School, Tap in Vegetable Preparation Room	5	2	—	—	Satisfactory
17	23/10/51	Malaya Farm, Crouch Lane. Tap over sink in kitchen	30	20	5	—	100 Unsatisfactory
18	13/11/51	Theobalds Secondary School, Tap in school kitchen	7	3	—	—	Satisfactory
19	11/12/51	Theobalds Secondary School, Tap in school kitchen	16	10	—	—	Satisfactory
20	31/12/51	Theobalds Secondary School, Bibcock over kitchen sink	3	1	—	—	Satisfactory

Swimming Bath.

There are no publicly owned baths or pools in the area. The swimming pool of the Cheshunt Swimming Club, which is privately owned, is operated on the fill and empty system with water supplied by the Metropolitan Water Board. A drip feed chlorinator is used and partial circulation of the water is obtained by pumping. Tests for free chlorine are carried out with a chlorotex indicator.

Seven samples were taken during the season, one for full chemical and bacteriological examination and six for bacteriological examination only. Of the seven bacteriological reports five were reported upon as satisfactory and two as unsatisfactory. The following is an extract from the full chemical and bacteriological report.

“This sample has slight opalescence and deposit, the turbidity being, for swimming bath water, appreciable. The water is faintly alkaline in reaction, contains no excess of mineral constituents in solution and it is free from metals apart from traces of iron and copper. It is of satisfactory organic quality and of the highest standard of bacterial purity.

The water is considered suitable for swimming bath purposes. A higher standard of clarity is, however, considered desirable, particularly from the aspect of safety and clear visibility in the deep part of the bath”.

Movable Dwellings.

Consents under the Hertfordshire County Council Act, 1935 were renewed in respect of twenty nine movable dwellings on the Willows site, Waltham Cross, for a further period of twelve months. New consents

in respect of seven movable dwellings were granted for a similar period for this site.

Consent was also renewed for a further twelve months for a movable dwelling at 209, Windmill Lane, Cheshunt.

A new consent was granted for the siting of a caravan at the Poplars, Hammond Street Road for the period to 31st March, 1952, and an application under the Act in respect of a movable dwelling at Knockold Nursery, Goff's Lane, was refused.

Applications were also considered in respect of sites at 107, Windmill Lane ; Twelve Acres, Rags Lane ; the Jolly Bargeman, River Lea Bank. The applicants were informed of the requirements of the Council in relation to drainage, sanitary accommodation, water supply and hard standings which would be necessary before consents were granted.

A survey of all known movable dwellings was undertaken towards the end of the year and this showed that there were eighty-one caravans on twenty-two sites within the Urban District. The report was not considered by the Council, however, before the end of the year.

An appeal by the owner against the Council's refusal of permission under Section 93 of the Hertfordshire County Council Act, 1935, for the placing of a caravan on land at Crouch Lane was heard by the Cheshunt Bench on 31st January, 1951. The Appeal was dismissed, the Council being awarded one guinea costs.

Infestation.

The use of contact insecticides and where

necessary the steam disinfection of bedding and clothing are the methods used to combat infestation.

Hand sprayers and contact insecticides in small tins are available from the Public Health Department for purchase by house-holders for follow up treatment or for use where infestation is slight.

Requests for the advice or assistance of the Department in dealing with bed bugs or fleas are now rare and no doubt the availability of modern insecticides enables householders to control these pests effectively. Advice and assistance is occasionally sought in dealing with wasp nests, ants and the furniture beetle.

Damage to roofing timbers caused by the House Long Horn Beetle was reported in 1950 at a house in Flamstead End, but no further reports of infestation by this insect have been received.

One case of infestation by body lice was dealt with during the year. The infested persons were cleansed by arrangement at Western House, Ware, and the rooms they occupied were disinfected.

Rats and Mice.

Treatment of infestation of private dwellings is carried out free of charge but charges are made for rodent control work done at other premises. The following table shows the rodent control work carried out during the year.

Type of Property

All other (including

	Authority	Houses	cultural	Industrial)	Total
Total number of properties ...	7	6,301	52	793	7,153
Number of properties inspected ...	5	87	9	51	152
Number of properties found to be infested by rats ...	Major 2 Minor 2	1 77	3 6	6 36	12 121
Number of properties found to be seriously infested by mice ...	1	9	—	9	19
Number of infested properties treated	5	87	9	51	152

Maintenance treatments of the soil sewers were carried out in March and September. In March the treatment was confined to those areas where previous infestation had been found and in September the same area was treated again together with 10% of the man-holes in other parts of the district.

Details of the sewer treatments are given in the following table :—

Treatment	Date Comm.	Total No. of Manholes	No. Baited	Average Pre-bait Takes			
				Complete Take	Partial Take	Total Take	No. Take
1. Initial	20.7.49	366	306	12	18	30	276
2. Initial	26.8.49	366	46	1	9	10	36
3. 1st Maint'nce	24.1.50	366	67	2	12	14	53
4. 2nd Maint'nce	9.8.50	366	103	5	13	18	85
5. 3rd Maint'nce	7.3.51	366	67	7	8	15	52
6. 4th Maint'nce	24.9.51	366	109	3	13	16	93

Refuse Collection and Disposal.

A weekly collection of refuse is carried out by means of six Shelvoke and Drewry Chelsea Type Freighters and disposal is by controlled tipping in a disused gravel pit.

During the fly breeding season dustbins are treated with a mixture of gammexane and disinfectant powder using sprinkler containers and the tip is sprayed with a gammexane dispersible powder in water.

Details of salvage sales during the year together with the figures for 1950 were as follows:—

	1950						1951					
	Weight		Value				Weight		Value			
	Tons	Cwts.	£	s.	d.		Tons	cwts.	£	s.	d.	
Paper	189	15	1168	4	4		196	5½	2985	4	4	
Pig Food	156	0	156	0	0		163	0	192	13	4	
Rags	9	3½	259	4	10		10	9¼	479	17	4	
Bottles and Jars	14	4¾	64	12	5		16	1	73	8	10	
Light Metal		16¼	54	0	4		1	2¾	113	9	5	
Cullet	—	—	—	—	—		1	17	3	14	0	
Boots and Shoes	—	—	—	—	—		—	12	3	12	0	
Totals	369	19½	£1702	1	11		389	7½	£3851	19	3	

The cost of Refuse Collection and Disposal for the past three years after the income from salvage sales had been deducted, was as follows :—

Year to 31st March	1950	1951	1952
Population	21,490	22,180	23,290
Net Cost	£6377	£7843	£8041
Cost per 1000 population	£296.743	£353.607	£345.255

The Council have a contract for the sale of waste paper with Messrs Thames Board Mills, until March, 1953.

The Council competed in the £20,000 National Waste Paper Contest organised by the Waste Paper Recovery Association and salvage publicity was undertaken by the use of posters, cinema slides, films, pavement stencils and the distribution of hand bills by the dustmen to householders where salvable waste paper was found in the dustbin. Display boards, approximately one foot high carrying salvage slogans were fitted diagonally across the cab of each refuse collection vehicle.

Collection of kitchen waste is carried out from communal street bins by a private contractor under annual contract. Additional bins and concrete bin stands were purchased during the year to extend the scheme to new housing estates. The bins are regularly cleansed at the contractor's depot and spraying of the bins and bin stands with D.D.T. is undertaken during the summer months.

Cheshunt is not scheduled under the Kitchen Waste (Licensing of Private Collectors) Orders and private collectors who make arrangements with occupiers of premises for the collection of kitchen waste do not need a licence to collect.

Refuse Dumps.

Dumping of refuse is controlled by consents granted under the Hertfordshire County Council Act, 1935, by the County Council and the District Council and a number of sites which were previously excavated for gravel are now being filled.

Action was necessary during the year in respect of contraventions of the terms of consent at one site at Albury Ride, Cheshunt, where over tipping of the greater portion of the filled area had been carried out above the natural level of the surrounding ground and the deposited material left in heaps. As a result of representations by the Council the over-filled area was levelled off.

No new consents were granted during the year.

INSPECTION and SUPERVISION of FOOD Milk and Dairies.

The Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries is responsible for the registration of dairy farms and for the enforcement on dairy farms of the Milk and Dairies Regulations, 1949.

The District Council is responsible for those provisions of the Regulations which apply outside dairy farms, for the registration of dairies which are not dairy farms and of dairy men who are not dairy farmers.

Twenty-five visits to dairies were made during the year and thirteen samples of milk from various retailers were submitted for examination. All the samples satisfied the prescribed tests.

Reports relating to eight samples of school milk taken by the County Council were received and these

showed that seven samples were satisfactory and one unsatisfactory.

Where unsatisfactory samples are taken by this Authority and can be identified with a known farm or a known heat treatment plant then in accordance with a scheme formulated at the request of the County Milk Advisory Sub-committee, the results of the tests are sent to the County Milk Regulations Officer or to the Food and Drugs Authority as the case may be. Advisory visits and such further investigations as may be necessary are then undertaken.

Reports on samples taken by the County Council for biological examination for tubercle bacilli shows positive results at two farms. At one farm as a result of the subsequent veterinary investigation a cow affected with tuberculosis of the udder was slaughtered under the Tuberculosis Order 1938 and further check sampling was negative. At the other farm the investigation was not completed at the end of the year.

From two different farms two single samples examined for *Brucella Abortus* (the causative agent of Undulant Fever in man) were reported as positive. Further check samples were reported negative.

The milk supply from all four farms is heat treated before sale for consumption.

Milk Licences.

Licences were granted during the year as follows:

Tuberculin Tested—Dealer's Licence ...	...	3
Tuberculin Tested—Supplementary Licence ...	...	4
Pasteurised—Dealer's Licence ...	...	6
Pasteurised—Supplementary Licence ...	...	4
Sterilised—Dealer's Licence ...	...	12
Sterilised—Supplementary Licence ...	...	5

Meat and Other Foods.

During the year five hundred and eighty visits were made to shops and premises where food is prepared or exposed for sale as detailed in the following table:—

Slaughterhouses	...	...	...	...	11
Butchershops	...	...	...	...	31
Fish Shops	...	...	...	...	24
Ice Cream Premises	...	...	...	...	91
Cafes and Restaurants	...	...	...	...	131
Bakehouses	...	...	...	...	20
Licenced Premises	...	...	...	...	10
Other Food Shops and Food Premises	...	...	...	...	262

The following food stuffs were surrendered as unsound and unfit for human consumption:—

Canned Goods of all descriptions	...	...	956 tins
Trimnings from		Rice	... 1 lb.
Ox Heads	... 70 lbs.	Corn Flakes	...27 pkts
Beef	... 27½ lbs.	Sugar	... 3 lbs.
Ham	... 20¾ lbs.	Tea	... ½ lb.
Luncheon Meat	2 lbs.	Dried Fruit	... 63 lbs.
Mackerel	... 42 lbs.	Fig Bar Biscuits	...240 lbs.
Cod Roe	... 22 lbs.	Swiss Roll	... 1
National Oil		Fruit Salad	... 17 jars
(Frying)	... 28 lbs.	Apricots	... 15 jars
Butter	... 1 lb.	Raspberries	... 1 jar
Margarine	... ½ lb.	Damsons	... 1 jar
Cooking Fat	... ½ lb.	Plums	... 1 jar
Cheese	... 12½ lbs.	Table Jellies	... 72
Flour	... 3 lbs.	Chocolate Caramels	8 lbs.

Practically the whole of the foodstuffs listed above were examined on request at retailers or wholesalers premises but five complaints were received regarding foodstuffs which had been sold.

A complaint was received regarding a packet of Vermicelli which when opened was found to contain larvae of the Mediterranean Meal Moth. Arrangements were made with the County Food and Drugs Inspector to purchase another packet from the same shop for examination by the Public Analyst and this was found to be wholesome and free from any foreign matter. There was no evidence of infestation in the shop itself and arrangements were made with the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries for one of their Inspectors to visit the wholesaler's mills.

Another complaint was received regarding a cake which when cut was found to contain a larvae of the Meal Worm. The Council decided to issue a warning in this case and arrangements were made with the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries to examine the bakehouse and flour store where the cake was manufactured. The premises concerned were not in this district.

Tinned ham in a primary stage of decomposition purchased from a retail shop was the subject of another complaint. A portion of the ham was sent to the Hertford Laboratory for bacteriological examination and it was reported that the culture showed the presence of staphylococcal organisms not disease producing. The remainder of the tin of ham had already been sold, but no further complaints were received. As a result of this incident the retailer installed a special cooked meat glass display case as a safe-guard against contamination when these foodstuffs are exposed for sale.

Another complaint concerned an apple turn-over which it was alleged was mouldy and unfit for human consumption at the time of purchase. The Council

decided to issue a warning to the retailer concerned in this case.

Another complaint concerned a cream doughnut which it was alleged contained a piece of wire approximately two inches long. The local authority in whose area the doughnut was manufactured arranged for an inspection of the factory and store of the firm concerned. The report stated that the premises were modern and that the business was run on very hygienic lines. It had been impossible to find any metal remotely resembling the specimen found in the doughnut and no explanation could be given to account for its presence

Slaughterhouses.

There are no slaughterhouses in regular use in this district but one is used occasionally for the slaughter of pigs.

CARCASES INSPECTED AND CONDEMNED.

		Cattle excluding Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs
Number killed if known	--	—	—	—	—	17
Number inspected	—	—	—	—	—	17
<i>All diseases except Tuberculosis :</i>						
Whole carcasses con-						
demned	--	—	—	—	—	—
Carcases of which some						
part or organ was con-						
demned	—	—	—	—	—	1
Percentage of the number						
inspected affected with						
disease other than tub-						
erculosis	—	—	—	—	—	5.9

			Cattle excluding Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs
<i>Tuberculosis only.</i>							
Whole carcasses con-							
demned	—	—	—	—	—
Carcases of which some							
part or organ was con-							
demned	—	—	—	—	1
Percentage of the number							
inspected affected with							
tuberculosis	—	—	—	—	5.9

Clean Food Campaign.

In the course of visits to food premises particular attention is given to ensuring compliance with the Clean Food Byelaws made by the Council in 1950 and to discussing with food handlers the essential points of clean food handling.

Adequate protection of food against contamination on counters and elsewhere is encouraged and the provision of suitable staff washing facilities is pressed where these facilities do not already exist.

The standard of hygiene at food premises generally was found to be good.

Copies of a notice requesting customers not to bring dogs into premises in which food is sold were distributed to 115 shops and the response by occupiers in displaying the notices has been good.

Ice Cream.

SAMPLING.

Examination of ice cream samples is carried out at the Public Health Laboratory at Hertford by the methylene blue test and the samples are graded accord-

ing to Ministry of Health provisional grades. Plate counts on the samples and presumptive tests for B.Coli are not carried out.

During the period from 11th April, 1951 to 17th September, 1951, sixty-one samples of ice cream and fruit ice were submitted for examination.

The results may be summarised as follows :—

Grades	Wrapped Ice Cream	Unwrapped Ice Cream	Total
I	29	16	45
II	8	3	11
III	2	2	4
IV	—	1	1

Where ice cream consistently fails to reach Grades I and II of the provisional grades it is suggested that it would be reasonable to regard this as indicating defects of manufacture or handling which call for further investigation.

The test is not a statutory test and non-compliance with it does not constitute an offence.

On the sample results further investigation was necessary in the case of four retailers only. At two of these premises ice cream was sold from bulk and following improvements in the method of storing and sterilising the ice cream serving equipment subsequent sampling showed satisfactory results. In the other two cases the unsatisfactory samples were of pre-packed ice cream manufactured outside this district and the results of the sampling were communicated to the local authority concerned.

At least one sample of ice cream was taken from each registered retail purveyor in the district.

Registration of Ice Cream Premises.

Premises used for the sale, storage and manufacture of ice cream must be registered for that purpose by the local authority.

Six premises are registered for the manufacture and sale of ice cream but at all these premises manufacturing has been discontinued. At the end of the year there were fifty-two premises on the register at which ice cream is stored and sold.

Registration of Preserved Food Premises.

Premises used for the preparation or manufacture of sausages or potted, pressed, pickled or preserved food intended for sale are required to be registered for that purpose with the local authority. At the end of the year there were twenty such premises on the register.

Adulteration of Food.

The Food and Drugs Inspector of the County Council, which is the Food and Drugs Authority, has kindly supplied the following particulars of samples taken in Cheshunt during the year :—

Article	No. Procured	No. Genuine	No. Not Genuine
Milk	12	12	—
Ice Cream	4	4	—
Vermicelli	1	1	—
Pepper	1	1	—

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